

Remarks

The 6 May 2004 Office Action alleged that applicants' information disclosure statement filed 11 April 2001 failed to comply with 27 CFR 1.98(a)(1). The Office Action suggested that the lack of compliance was due to a missing "list" of the information submitted. The Office Action further stated that the information disclosure statement (presumably including the prior art associated therewith) was placed in the file but not considered.

But such a list, in the form of a PTO-1449 form, was submitted when the application was filed. The examiner is respectfully requested to note that the Transmittal letter filed on 11 April 2001 indicates that a PTO-1449 form was submitted. Nevertheless, in an attempt to move this matter forward, applicants' information disclosure statement is being resubmitted herewith, in its entirety. The examiner is respectfully requested to consider and not ignore the prior art that is enclosed with and identified in the information disclosure statement that accompanies this Amendment.

The 6 May 2004 Office Action allowed claims 1-14 and 20, objected to claims 16-18, and rejected claims 15, 19, and 21. All allowed claims are left unaltered by this amendment. Rejected claim 15 has been amended by incorporating the limitations from objected-to claim 16 therein, and claim 16 has been canceled. Accordingly, claim 15 is believed to be allowable.

Objected-to claim 17 is amended to make it more compatible with the amendments introduced into claim 15, from which claim 17 depends. Accordingly, objected-to claim 17 and objected-to claim 18, which depends from claim 17, are believed to be allowable.

Rejected claims 19 and 21 are canceled.

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments and remarks are fully responsive to the rejections and objections recited in the 6 May 2004 Office Action and that the present application is now in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the present application and the issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lowell W. Gresham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

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